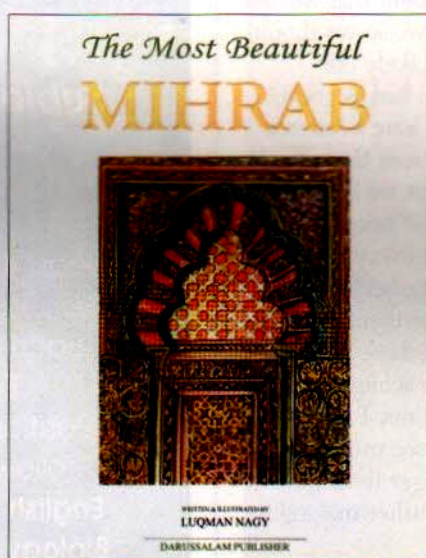


THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MIHRAB

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY LUQMAN NAGY

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL *Mihrab* is a children's book that seeks to educate about, and tell the story of, a unique example of cooperation between the Byzantine Emperor Nicephoros II Phocas in Constantinople (today's Istanbul) and the Muslim Caliph Al-Hakam II (d. 976 CE) in Cordoba during the tenth Century, CE, an effort which led to the building of the most beautiful *mihrab* in the World which stands today as a witness to the great achievements of Muslim, which thrived for eight hundred years in Andalusia—the Muslim Spain.

The author Luqman Nagy begins by giving us a brief description of past Muslim history leading up to of point the building of the *mihrab* and explains that Al-Hakim II was a very smart, wise and learned and whose reign was prosperous and stable. Nagy tells how Al-Hakam assembled an international team of artists and architects to help him beautify his capital city, especially the Great Friday Masjid. The Unique coexistence amongst Muslims, Christians and Jews of Andalusia helped make this project of the *mihrab* become an opportunity of making *dawah* and to securing a good place for Islam in the hearts of the people.



The author takes you along the story of the building of the *mihrab* effortlessly through limited but enough details in text, and provides, on the opposing page paintings of colorful illustrations that coincides with the information. At the end of the tale there are two pages that present a map of the world which the reader has just experienced, the a glossary, and 'Comprehension Questions' section to test your knowledge of was discussed.

Every Muslim child must add this book to his collection. ▲

Published by Darussalam Publishers, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, First Edition, 2008, Paperback, 44 pages, dimensions 9"x12.6"

Reviewed by Ibrahim Hassen

FAMILY LEADERSHIP: QAWAMAH An Obligation to Fulfill, Not an Excuse to Abuse

by Dr. Mohamed Rida Beshir

This book *Family Leadership: Qawamah* briefly discusses a few aspects of leadership in the Muslim family or *Qawamah*. The author of the book who has an extended experience in

dealing with problems of the Muslims family in the West, makes an effort to clarify the many misconceptions that arise around this concept.

The book probes the subject from a variety of available literature and focuses on the father (husband), since he is the head of the family, and his obligation towards his family. To illustrate its points, the book brings to light many practical situations as to when the *Qawamah* is valid, needed and thus useful and when it is incorrect and inappropriate. Starting by defining terms and simple introductions, the book then proceeds to offer a summary of the Qur'anic texts and ahadeeth of Prophet Muhammad, sallallahu alayhe wa sallam, along with appropriate interpretations established and by well known Muslim scholars.

Muslims who live in the West as well as Imams of masajid and community leaders should find this book useful. ▲

Published by Amana Publication, Beltsville, MD, First Edition, 2009, Paperback, 96 pages, Dimensions 6"x9"
Reviewed by Ibrahim Hassen

